

Country Profile: Morocco

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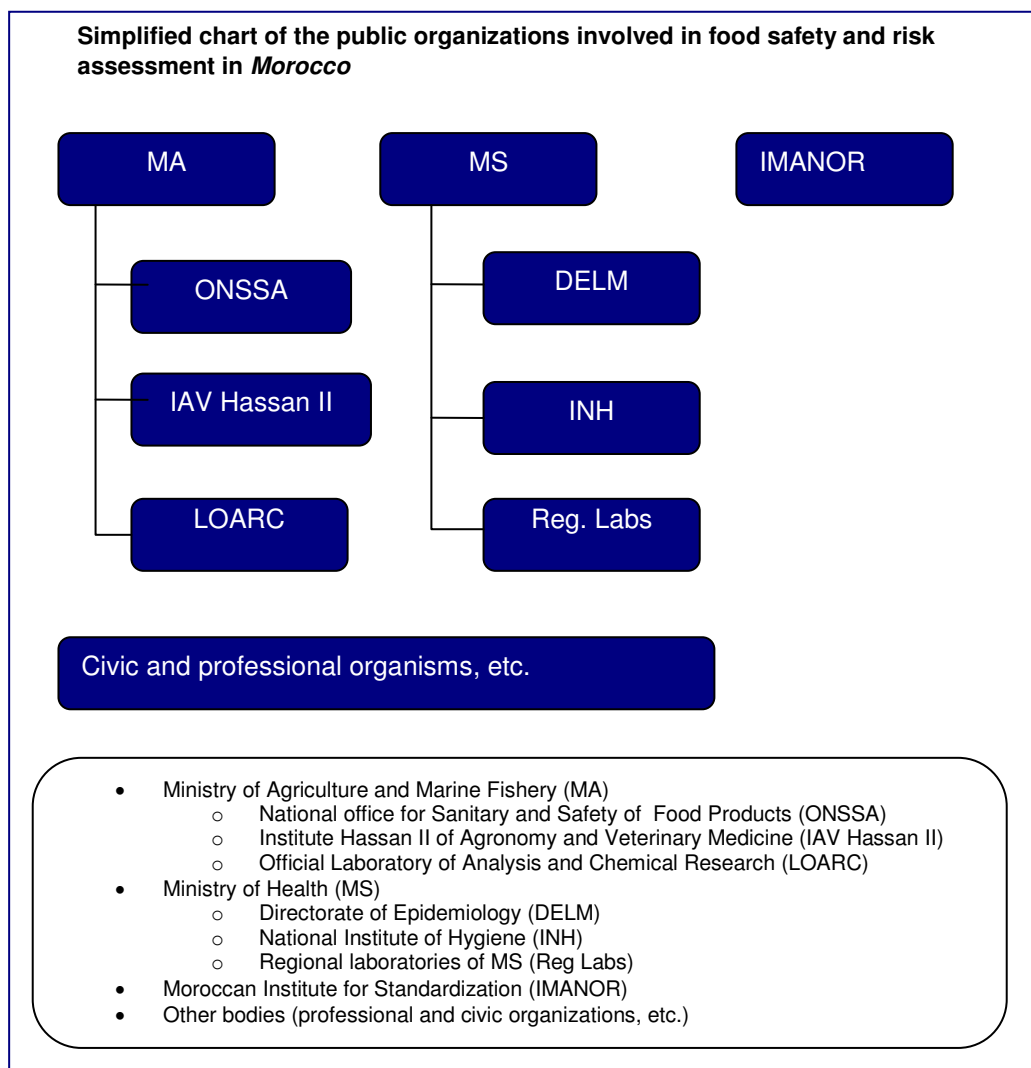
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Country Profile: Moroccoⁱ

I – Key priorities for risk assessment

- Emerging foodborne pathogens
- Risk assessment of food contaminants (pesticides, mycotoxins) and additives
- Tools for risk assessment

II – Major public actors involved in food safety (including risk assessment, management and communication)



Main public organisations involved in food safety and roles – Morocco

Organisation	Main areas of remit	Risk assessment		
		Risk assessment	Risk management	Risk communication
MA – Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Fishery	Plant health, animal health – Fishery, agricultural products, animal feeds	x	x	x
ONSSA – National office for Sanitary and Safety of Food Products	Animal health, food safety	x	x	x
LOARC – Official Laboratory of Analysis and Chemical Research	Food safety	x		
IAV Hassan II – Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine (IAV Hassan II)	Training- Food safety, animal health, research & cooperation	x		
MS – Ministry of Health	Human health, food safety, environmental health	x	x	x
DELM – Directorate of Epidemiology	Human health, food safety, environmental health	x	x	x
INH – National Institute of Hygiene	Training, food safety, environmental health- research & cooperation	x		
Reg Labs – Regional Laboratories for Environmental Health	Food safety, environmental health	x		
IMANOR – Moroccan Institute for Standardization	Production of standards, certification, training	x		

National legislation

- Law N° 25-08 on the creation of the National Office of Food Safety products (ONSSA)
- Law No. 12-06 on the standardization, certification and accreditation, law creating the IMANOR
- Law No. 28-07 on the safety of food products. The principal objectives of this law are:
 - o Establishment of the general principles of food safety in Morocco,
 - o Determination of the conditions under which food and feed should be developed, produced and marketed to be called safe product,
 - o Indication of mandatory consumer information rules, via labeling of food and feed.

Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Fishery (MA)

Tasks of MA:

- General agricultural policy
- Food and plant health
- Risk assessment
- Risk management
- Risk communication

Website: <http://www.agriculture.gov.ma>

MA of Morocco has the charge to define and implement the Government's policy in the field of agricultural development. It carries out studies and research for the development of agriculture at regional and national levels. It is in charge to develop legal and regulatory texts relating to agricultural activities; it also collect, analyze and disseminate statistics and agricultural information. MA conducts also all prospective studies on research opportunities for profitable crop and livestock production. MA develops government policy on the safety of plants, animals and food products throughout the country and at border posts.

National office for Sanitary and Safety of Food Products (ONSSA)

Tasks of ONSSA:

- Plant health
- Animal health
- Food safety
- Codex Alimentarius Focal Point
- Legislation

Website: <http://www.onssa.gov.ma>

ONSSA was created in 2008. It is in charge to implement the government policy on safety of plants, animals and food products from raw materials to the final consumer, including foods intended for animal feed. ONSSA is responsible for the health protection of animals and plants against diseases, protect public health by reducing the risk of diseases, ensure the safety of food products for sale including products of fisheries and aquaculture; improve sanitary and phytosanitary supervision; ensure the safety and quality and product compliance of food import and export regulations. Finally ONSSA implements the legal environment encouraging investment in the agro-industrial sector. Nowadays, ONSSA is composed of 3 national laboratories and 14 regional laboratories. ONSSA ensures the permanent secretariat of several national and technical Committees (CIPCARF, etc.), and it is the focal point of the National Committee of Codex Alimentarius.

Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine (IAV Hassan II)

Tasks of IAV Hassan II:

- Training
- Research
- Cooperation

Website: <http://www.iav.ac.ma>

IAV Hassan II Institute is a Polytechnic center of multidisciplinary expertise, it provides training in agricultural and life sciences and technologies (Engineers, Veterinary Doctors and Doctors in Agricultural Sciences). It actively contributes to the effort to modernize agriculture through the conduct of innovative research programs that meet the expectations and needs of changing world agriculture. Skills IAV extend the following areas:

- Agriculture and agricultural resources
- Rural development and spatial planning
- Environment and natural resources management
- Agro-industrial processing
- Plant, animal and microbial biotechnologies
- Veterinary Public Health
- Services associated with agricultural production, distribution and marketing.

Official Laboratory of Analysis and Chemical Research (LOARC)

Tasks of LOARC:

- Food analysis (food composition, food additives and chemical contaminants)
- Quality control
- Fertilizers control
- Pesticides control

Website: www.loarc.org

LOARC was founded since 1914. The Laboratory was accredited according to COFRAC standards since 1999. LOARC is responsible for controlling the marketability of agricultural products (foodstuffs, fertilizers and pesticides). It conducts operations expertise in chemical and physico-chemical analyzes in accordance with the enabling legislation for this purpose.

In this context, the LOARC handles over 20,000 samples of food matrix annually in terms of composition and quality control of product safety, including research and quantification of food additives and contaminants (heavy metals , pesticide residues , mycotoxins, PAHs , PCBs , etc.), and detection of fraud and forgery .

Ministry of Health (MS)

Tasks of MS:

- Global Health Policy
- Risk management
- Risk communication
- Risk assessment

Website: www.sante.gov.ma

The MS is responsible for the development and implementation of government policy on population health. It works in conjunction with relevant departments, to promote the physical, mental and social well -being of the inhabitants. The MS harmonizes and coordinates policy objectives and actions or measures that contribute to raising the level of health in the country and works to ensure, at national level, a better allocation of resources for prevention, care curative or assistance.

Directorate of epidemiology (DELM)

Tasks of DELM:

- Epidemiological studies
- Risk management
- Risk assessment
- Risk communication

Website: www.sante.gov.ma

DELM is a central Directorate of the MS. It is in charge to ensure the epidemiological surveillance of the population and hold a central epidemiological file. DELM assess the epidemiological characteristics of the population. It performs all surveys and studies in epidemiology. DELM is in charge to design and implement programs to fight against diseases, contributing to the surveillance, monitoring and control as well as monitoring in the environment and ensuring the sanitary control of foodstuffs. Recently a new committee on risk assessment of chemical contaminants in foodstuffs has been set by the MS. This committee is coordinated by the DELM.

National Institute of Hygiene (INH)

Tasks of INH:

- Training, research and cooperation
- Quality control
- Analytical and technical support
- Epidemiological surveillance based on laboratory data
- Risk assessment

Website: www.sante.gov.ma/INH

INH was created in 1930, it is the Moroccan national reference center of MS. INH is composed of several departments with different expertises especially in environmental health (microbiology, chemistry and toxicology). It has several missions: analytical and technical support of the programs of MS, training, research and cooperation. INH was implicated in different investigations and risk assessment studies especially for food-borne outbreaks and environmental contamination of the environment such as botulism crisis during 2000, food poisoning due to pesticides residues, air pollution, etc.

Regional laboratories of MS (Reg Labs)

Tasks of Reg Labs:

- Training
- Quality control
- Analytical and technical support
- Epidemiological surveillance

Website: www.sante.gov.ma

Reg Labs of the MS are in charge of epidemiological surveillance of the environment at the local and regional level by detection of sources and factors of contamination. Reg labs are in charge to collect information about microbiological and chemical hazards both of drinking water and foodstuffs.

Moroccan Institute for Standardization (IMANOR)

Tasks of IMANO:

- Production of standards
- Certification of private and public organisms
- Training

Website: <http://www.imanor.ma>

IMANOR is the Moroccan official body responsible for standardization and was created in 2010. Through its new status as an organization with administrative and financial autonomy, IMANOR aims both to contribute to increasing the competitiveness of Moroccan firms and secondly, to provide support to public policies establishing conditions of economic competition, consumer protection, preservation of the environment and improvement of living conditions.

To achieve its objectives, IMANOR is responsible for:

- The production of Moroccan standards
- Certification of compliance with reference standards
- Publication and dissemination of standards and related products
- Training on technical standards and their implementation;
- Representation of Morocco to the international and regional standards organizations.

III – Food safety alerts management in Morocco

1. Does the competent authority (or authorities) for food safety have an established mechanism to evaluate and react to food safety crises (crises management mechanism)?	Yes
2. If the reply to Q1 is yes, does this mechanism include a committee or a body with pre-determined representatives?	Yes (a committee with pre-determined representatives exists and it can include additional members if needed for a specific crisis)
3. If there is an established mechanism for crisis management (the reply to Q1 is Yes):	
3a. Do actors with risk assessment capacity participate directly in this mechanism?	Yes
3b. Do actors with risk management capacity participate directly in this mechanism?	Yes
3c. Do actors with risk communication capacity participate directly in this mechanism?	Yes

IV – Characteristics of the food sector in Morocco

Number of enterprises¹: 2093 enterprises in 2011

% of the industrial sector: 26%

% of the industrial workforce: 22%

% of industrial turnover: The food industry sector generated in 2011 a value of about 29 billion MAD, or 29% of industrial GDP.

Top subsectors (in terms of number of enterprises): the fishing industries and exploitation of seafood sector is composed of 414 the enterprises.

Top subsectors (in terms of turnover): Mainly oriented towards export, the fishing industries and exploitation of seafood sector generates a turnover of MAD 14.8 billion, which represents nearly 50% of food exports, 10% of total exports of the country and around 2.5% of National GDP.

With a total cultivable agricultural land near 8.7 million hectares, Morocco has 16 regions, offering diverse opportunities with high added value. To develop a sector which represents 19% of national GDP¹, Morocco put a new strategy in agriculture called the Green Morocco Plan (PMV). This plan was built with the objective to achieve an agricultural GDP of more than 100 billion dirhams (around 10 billion €) in 2020.

The leading products for export are from the processing of fruit and vegetables (46% of food exports, 30% towards the European Union), olive oil (and especially extra virgin olive oil,

¹ A. AMARA Ministre de l'Industrie, du commerce. Entretien avec le magazine LES ÉCO SUPPLÉMENTS – AGROALIMENTAIRE : Un secteur en ordre de marche VENDREDI 26 JUILLET 2013. Available at : <http://www.leseco.ma/images/stories/932/Speciale-Agroalimentaire.pdf>

² Focus sur l'agro-alimentaire au Maroc. EuroMed@Change Mai. 2013

Morocco is the 4th largest producer, with 10.6% share market), Argan oil, citrus (including 32.5% of production is destined for export markets), spices, medicinal and aromatic plants and essential oils (doubling exports between 2004 and 2009). Morocco has also an important fisheries industry, which represents today 2-3% of GDP, and not less than 12% of total exports².

Around 95% of Moroccan companies in the food sector are SMEs, while a growing number of large companies as well as several food groups are being resized nationally. Recently, the multinational companies are increasing their presence in the Moroccan agro-industrial sector including the dairy industry and the non alcoholic beverages industry (juices).

V – Civil Society Organisations (examples)

- **Professional association: FENAGRI.**
Website : <http://www.fenagri.org>
- **Food safety association: Moroccan Society for Mycotoxicology MSM.**
Website: www.msm.org.ma
Email: msm.maroc@yahoo.fr

ⁱ **Country profile elaborated by:**

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